

# The Times Dispatch

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Tuesday, February 4, 1913.

## THE SIXTEENTH AMENDMENT.

A significant chapter in the life of the republic was written yesterday. The ratification of the sixteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution was a voluntary surrender by the states to the Federal government of one of the most valuable of inherent State rights—that of levying a tax upon incomes. Federalism has effected its widest encroachment upon the diminishing domain of State sovereignty; to centralization of power in the national government there has been a lesson of immeasurable importance. The modern reaction in favor of the Federal power, which began in the fourteenth amendment, and which was continued in the fifteenth amendment, rises near the high-water mark in the addition to the national organic law made yesterday.

The income tax amendment to the Federal Constitution enables the Federal government for the first time to impose and collect a direct tax not in proportion to the census.

The States have transferred to the nation a domestic and social power that it has never before possessed; the State has stood aside so that the mighty arm of the Federal government may fall upon the citizen of the State. The Federal government is clothed with primary power to inquire into the citizen's individual and private affairs, and to deal directly with him in the matter of taxation. The first eleven amendments to the national fundamental law are all restrictions upon the Federal government in favor of the rights of the States, while the thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth amendments are restrictions upon the States in favor of the power of the Federal government. The latitudinarian scope of the phrase "from whatever source derived" in the amendment ratified by the States yesterday indicates to what far-reaching and radical extent its application might go.

The States, of course, still retain the right to levy and collect State income taxes, but double taxation is wholly abhorrent to the people, and it is not believed that any considerable number of the States will impose such a tax after the Federal government has occupied the field. Let no one doubt that the States have surrendered a rich source of revenue. Half a million dollars was collected in the first year of the operation of the new State income tax in Wisconsin, and other States could have collected far more. The States which levy income taxes have, as a rule, been lax in their collection, but the Federal government will see to it that the tax-dodger comes to time, for under a centralized system of collecting taxes such as the nation will have, and such as every State ought to have, legal influences will have no weight with the taxgatherer who owes his continuance in office to his success in securing proper returns from individuals.

The best argument for a national income tax has been that if the Democratic tariff revision program is executed, such a deficit in the national treasury will be created that only the return from a national income tax could make up the loss. Undoubtedly the receipts from the tax will amount to a vast sum. Future events may vindicate the new tax upon the ground of national necessity. It is to be hoped that the Federal government will provide more efficient machinery for the collection of this tax than it did for any other national income tax—that levied in 1892 and continued until 1912. The returns from the tax in that period steadily diminished from year to year.

From the standpoint of constitutional history, the passage of the sixteenth amendment yesterday is distinctly interesting. It is the first amendment to be added to the fundamental law of the republic in forty-two years, the fifteenth amendment having been appended in 1870. In the years there have been but four amendments to the Federal Constitution, of which that yesterday was the fourth. Not that there have been few amendments proposed—from 1789 to 1905, a period of almost two centuries, 143 amendments were proposed in Congress, but failed to one branch or the other to receive the two-thirds vote necessary for submission to the States for ratification. It seems almost likely that within the next five years a seventh and eighth amendment will be attached to the Constitution, for President, and rendering him ineligible for a second term.

It cannot be denied that in a great degree, the State income tax laws have made States of bars, but it remains to be seen whether the Federal income tax will make us, in the words of Champ Clark, "a nation of bars." The amendment providing for the direct election of United States Senators by the people seems certain of ratification by the States, and the Senate

Saturday approved a proposed amendment providing a six-year term for the

## IMPENDING TROUBLE IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY.

The recent sanguinary riot at Rankin, Pa., has more than a local significance. In reality it seems to be the opening gun in the long-heralded conflict between organized labor and the United States Steel Corporation. Plans have been formed for some time by the American Federation of Labor, and already steps have been taken towards the unionization of the mills and furnaces of the Steel Corporation. For several years the Industrial Workers of the World have also been preaching their revolutionary doctrines in Western Pennsylvania, and have been urging the steel workers to strike for better working conditions and the recognition of the right to contract collectively for wage-rates. The activity of these radical propagandists undoubtedly led to the decision of the Federation of Labor to organize the steel industry. They lost a tactical advantage, however, as compared with the Industrial Workers, when at their recent annual convention they declared against industrial unionism in favor of strictly trade unions. The steel workers, if successfully organized, must be gotten together upon an industrial basis without reference to occupations.

As a matter of fact, the United States Steel Company has, during recent years, paid higher rates to its workmen than the independent companies have done. Many of the independent companies, however, have recognized the unions among employees. This the steel trust has refused to do, and has been relentless in its efforts to disrupt labor organization. But the fundamental cause of dissatisfaction among steel workers in the plants both of the independents and of the trust is to be found in the introduction during recent years of improved mechanical devices. The adoption of machine methods has eliminated the quality of skill formerly required of a large class of employees, and has resulted in decreased rates of payment, and a decline in earning ability. It has also made possible the employment of a large number of unskilled aliens from Southern and Eastern Europe. These immigrant workmen originally lacked experience and initiative, and were of low standards of living. After a number of years of residence in this country, their wants and aspirations have advanced, and they are now evidently attaining to a consciousness of their economic condition. The danger to the existing situation lies in the tendency among these foreign-born workmen, when once they are aroused, to follow a leader to any length. Wisdom and conciliation will be necessary in securing a permanent adjustment of working conditions in the steel industry without serious trouble.

## THE PANIC PERIL AT PICTURE SHOWS.

"It might have happened here." This is the solemn reflection that must strike every thoughtful person who reads the story of a panic in a New York moving-picture theatre. Two crushed to death on the steps, five fatally injured, and a score seriously wounded, is the terrible casualty list resultant on a moment's mishap to a film. Most appalling is the knowledge that the elements for such a tragedy are present in every picture show in the country.

In this case there was never any real danger. The film caught; a movement by the operator to loose it caused a short circuit that fired the gelatine; the audience was apprised of the mishap by the projection on the screen of a few sparks and a puff of smoke. By the quick use of a bucket of sand, kept for the purpose, and a fire extinguisher, the operator quenched the blaze in a moment. But a small boy cried "Fire," and the damage was done. There were but two exits, and the rushing mob from within met the waiting crowd without. A flight of steps caused the jam that resulted in death.

We believe that the picture theatres in Richmond are safeguarded in all reasonable ways. But it is clear that the thousands of women and children who attend them daily are exposed to great and sudden dangers. Some of the exits are not on the street level, and would become channeled pipes for several hundred people to attempt to flee to safety by this means. It is the custom for two or three hundred persons to mass in the corridors and before the doors waiting to enter for the next show. In New York, when the crowd attempted to escape, these waiting rooms thought the show was finished, and added to the crush by trying to get in to secure good seats. Strict measures to avoid the possibility of this life-taking crush should be put in force at once. Richmond must not wait for a catastrophe to bring the lesson home in houses of mourning.

We presume that the cages for the machines are made fireproof by law. The equipment of sand and extinguishers that put out the New York blaze should be installed if not already in place. The most adequate provision against possible conflagration will bring the public to believe that there is small danger of fire, and so increase self-control and reduce the danger of maddened rushes from what is thought a fire-trap. The picture show is a vital part of public amusement. Because it is vital, it must be made safe.

## A POLITICAL MACHINE CON- VERTED.

Thomas Taggart, Democratic national committee man from Indiana, is the undisputed Democratic boss of that State. For years the famous "Taggart machine" has been controlled and conducted in the interests of the corporation; Tammany has not become successful in delivering the goods. Taggart in Indiana, Murphy in New York and Sullivan in Chicago, are

the great Democratic triumvirate of State bossism.

"The Taggart machine" has not been shorn of an ounce of its power; it operates with as much precision and effectiveness today as it ever did. The State administration is bound to Taggart; every cog in it was put into place by him.

Yet there has been a change. It is the corporations which now denounce the "Taggart machine," while the people of the Hoosier State are lauding it. The reversal is due to the fact that "Tom" Taggart has seen a great light—as the Rocky Mountain News paints him, "where once he was the Saul of Reaction, he is now the Paul of Progressivism." He is no longer a servant of the corporations, but a servant of the people, because he would be chief over them. He has shifted his legislative alignment; his program of ultra-conservatism has been cast aside for a program of practical radicalism.

The word has gone out from him to the legislators of Indiana that during the present session they must enact a drastic public utilities law giving the State plenary authority over all public service corporations, a compulsory workmen's compensation act, a direct primary law, an inheritance tax, the initiative, the referendum and the recall, a "blue sky" law to prevent the sale of fraudulent securities, and such increased appropriation for the State university as will enable that institution to become a nursery of democracy.

"A more convincing proof of 'Tom' Taggart's intelligence could not have been given. Out of his present showing of brains it is easy to understand how it is that he has been able to dominate his party and his State for so many years," declares the Rocky Mountain News.

Bolling the situation down, Mr. Taggart has sense enough to see that "the standpat jig is up." Instead of attempting to sweep back the waves, he has made a raft of his broom and rides high upon the crest of the oncoming tide. He is a progressive for a purpose rather than out of conviction, but he is giving the people the progressive measures that they desire. He still has the key to the smokehouse, but he is dealing out fresh red meat now instead of canned fish.

There are a good many more Taggarts in the nation, a good many more who are about to flop over on the people's side. Flammaging the people and denying them relief through progressive legislation is going out of fashion, for the people are tiring of the yoke that pulls them backward instead of allowing them to pull themselves forward. The tamers of tomorrow will be the Taggarts.

## THE RULING PASSION AND EUGENICS.

"The ruling passion conquers reason still." The latest proof of this time-worn fact is in the victory of love over eugenics. In the first fervor of shouting "Eugenics" as the new slogan that must redeem humanity, the pseudo-scientist thought he had slipped love into the discard as a myth that had been servicable a few thousand years, but was now too frayed and frazzled to mean anything. Reason declared that by just breeding right you could make humanity flower into a sudden perfection. That was four years ago. But now the Neo-Eugenist, already insists that love is the best guide, and that Nature has been working along eugenic lines for quite a long time. If two persons really love, then they are mates, whose children will be as fine as the time and environment permit.

None of the poets have ever been able to vindicate love so nobly as have these cold scientists driven by the facts. Perhaps for the first time have they given indisputable validity to the great passion which men have obeyed and worshiped since they were men, but whose existence they could never defend on grounds other than confused feelings that seemed as insubstantial as the moonlight and fragrance with which love chose to deck its visiting.

The scientific view of love is this. It is the emotion that assures a man that the million-fold qualities of his body, and heart and soul, in some way answer to and complement the other million-fold qualities of his beloved. It is the guide to mating that will mean self-realization now, and the coming of a nobler generation hereafter. The old eugenist thought that you could mate people as you do animals. But in animals you seek only for the enhancement of one or two qualities, and these are always bodily. For a better human race, you must improve all the attributes of the individual, and many of these are elusively spiritual. Mating two humans for size, you may get half-idiot; seeking kindness, you may produce nerves. No mathematician will offer an equation to solve the problem of a million unknown quantities.

Therefore, the eugenist has wisely taken the stand that by forbidding the union of certain markedly deficient types, you may prevent the propagation of these qualities. He is preaching a doctrine of negative eugenics, and in so far as he has presented facts, this doctrine should gain support and enforcement by law.

If it doesn't hurry, old man Winter will not be able even to give us a cold wave as he passes.

Both the Virginia Senators favor the proposed constitutional amendment making the presidential term six years and rendering the President ineligible to a second term. Senator Swanson, who was present at the disposition of the question Saturday and who voted "aye," announced before the roll call that Senator Martin was detained from the Senate chamber on account of sickness, was paired with Senator Crawford of South Dakota, and, if present, would have voted "aye" on the proposed amendment.

The Wednesday Club stars make a brilliant constellation.

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

It Pays to Be Polite.

A young man who was up his sleeping berth on a Southern railroad under her will, when she died a month later, all of which leads me to the complication of the following rules:

When a lady old gentleman steps upon your car while climbing into his seat at the theatre and then stands on it for a minute or two while nodding to an acquaintance in the rear of the house, do not call him an antiquated bonehead or an ivorybeamed old galoot, but smile upon him graciously and offer him the other foot to step on. Make a few pleasant remarks about the weather, and ask after the state of health of his family. Then go out and buy him a bouquet of violets and present it to him.

If an old lady with square spectacles, who looks as though she might have money, sticks an umbrella point in your eye, lift your hat politely and ask her if she won't have an ice cream soda.

If a gentleman in the train piles his baggage in your seat while you are in the smoker, give him a good cigar and sit on the floor.

If a man runs you down with an automobile and breaks all of your ribs and one of the lamps on his car, send him a new lamp and a bouquet of American Beauties as soon as you are out of the hospital.

There are thousands of occasions of this kind of which you may take advantage, which may pay you, and which you never can tell who is going to die and leave money or just whom they are going to leave it to.

From the Ricksville Clarion.

Our highway commissioner, Mr. Lake Tubbs, is looking around for a new traction engine for the township, but he won't get one unless it has electric lights and is a self-starter. This township does not intend to be behind any other township in this State, and nothing old-fashioned goes.

Anse Judson's automobile is a self-starter. That is—he starts it himself. One of Lem Higgins's sons is married and the other one doesn't have much fun either.

When a feller is a crack billiard player, it ain't necessary to ask what he does for a livin', for he don't do nothing.

Every time our constable buys a tin cup for the town pump there is hints at graft and somebody believes he should be investigated.

The Common Council is making some money for the town these days by rentin' out the hook and ladder to fellers that are tryin' to reach the high cost of livin' by painting church steeples.

Rev. Hugnutt says the young people of the Rural School Club have got to stop writin' love letters in hymn books and passin' 'em along to their sweethearts. Some of the old folks git a hold of 'em occasionally, and when they do their singin' sounds forlorn.

Miss Fanny Tibbitts, our electionist, is thinkin' some of goin' on the stage, and the folks around here hope she will, as it will take her away from her house and deal.

Amie Hilliker's nose is so red that it sings his mustache. Amie was brought up in a drug store county. About the most appetizin' thing I know is to see a soda clerk with an apron on that looks like a pirate flag.

## Views of the Virginia Editors

Butchered the Primary Law.

The press of the State has been ringing these past few days with discussions of the primary. The burden of most of the opinions is in favor of the primary principle. It is well that it is so, because there is no earthly prospect that the primary will ever be abolished.

Another prominent note in these discussions is the dissatisfaction with the present primary law. It was originally introduced by Speaker Byrd and was an excellent measure when it passed the House of Delegates. In the Senate, however, it met stubborn opposition. The machine men, with few exceptions, were against it. They delayed it in committees as they had done every similar bill that had been introduced for ten years. Finally, public criticism of their stratagem methods became too warm and they brought it out of the committee with amendments that cut the very heart out of the bill. The friends of primary law opposed these amendments strongly, but the pressure of machine influence was too strong and the amendments were adopted.

One of the papers, under date of April 5, 1909, gives a very elaborate account of a fire that caused much loss to several citizens of this place a few days prior.

The article was taken from the "Genius of Liberty" published in this city. The account is very interesting, and unless one was familiar with locations of houses and places of business of that date, they would be unable to place where the fire occurred. From what can be learned from old residents, the fire must have started about where R. R. Buffington's store is at present located, and burned the best part of the square and several houses on the opposite side of the street.

The library contains many volumes of old records, such as would make very interesting reading for one gathering historical data from this section.

The demand for books in the past few weeks has increased in number, showing that the library is a long-felt want to the community.—Petersburg Journal.

The Voice as an Index to Character.

The voice has a good deal to do with the atmosphere of a home. A rasping, querulous voice will have an irritating effect upon the whole family, while the even, musical, and genial voice will promote harmony and cheerfulness. When one thinks of the many voices, some gruff and surly, others whining and snarling, that he hears, he cannot but pity homes in which there is no joy riding, and in which the other hand, there are far more cheerful, sunny, and stimulating voices, and as one listens to them he thinks with gratification of the happiness of the homes in which those same voices prevail. A passing crowd of men or women at night time may be "sized up" as accurately by their voices as if they were a flock of fowl of different varieties.

Not only the voice, but very little of it, often suffices to betray the social status, as well as temperament, of the speaker; by the way, if ever greeted by some otherwise attractive young lady, with a languid "h-a-r-d-moo!" what impression did that make on you?—Northampton Times.

## Abe Martin

It didn't take long for the feller that says "passin' out" to show his G.I. 'til he was off the water wagon is 'til only exercise some fellers ever git.

## "WELL, TALK ABOUT NERVE! THAT KID EXPECTS ME TO UNBUTTON MY COAT ON A DAY LIKE THIS."

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.)



measles and mump microbes.—Harrisonburg News.

## The Legislation Panacea.

A member of the Minnesota Legislature has introduced in that body a bill making it a felony for one woman to "steal," or otherwise entice, the valuable servant girl of another woman. The next thing we know some legislator, imbued with the idea that legislation is a panacea for all the ills afflicting the body social or politic, will be proposing to make failure to return a borrowed umbrella or book, within a given time, a capital offense.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

## Plan a Great Highway.

Russell people are greatly interested in the building of a macadam road from Bristol to Bluefield, and this is as it should be. We know of nothing that could possibly be of more benefit to Russell than such a road. We hope this county will give it every encouragement possible.—Lebanon News.

## "The Vicissitudes of Life."

Who can tell anything about the vicissitudes of life? Dr. William E. Dodson lived in this vicinity, and about 1869. He left two little orphan girls, Janette and Marian. Being motherless and fatherless, they were taken and raised by Mrs. Minerva Barnes, their aunt, and wife of Colonel Reps A. Barnes, who lived about eight miles from here. They died and the girls went to Knoxville, Tenn., to live with their uncle.

In December last I received an invitation to the marriage of Janette, to Chief Justice John K. Shields, of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. This week Judge Shields was elected United States Senator from the State of Tennessee. The other girl, Marian, I learn, is rich and living in California. They have many relatives in this community.—T. D. J., in the Chase City Progress.

## Rare Virginian.

The Wallace Library, this city, has a number of bound volumes of old newspapers published in Virginia during the Revolutionary period. The volumes are well preserved for their age, and are kept locked up in a glass case, but will be loaned to any one who might desire to seek information from the volumes.

One of the papers, under date of April 5, 1799, gives a very elaborate account of a fire that caused much loss to several citizens of this place a few days prior.

The article was taken from the "Genius of Liberty" published in this city. The account is very interesting, and unless one was familiar with locations of houses and places of business of that date, they would be unable to place where the fire occurred. From what can be learned from old residents, the fire must have started about where R. R. Buffington's store is at present located, and burned the best part of the square and several houses on the opposite side of the street.

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## More Bad Roads.

Our roads today are in a terrible condition—almost impassable in places—owing to so much rain weather and the heavy loads being hauled over them, cutting them almost in ditches.—Nomin Grove correspondence, Virginia Citizen.

## A Real Economy.

President Wilson's decision that there shall be no inaugural ball with official snobs at Washington. It will save the people something like \$50,000, however, which is a matter of more importance to the public than the display of jewels and feminine finery. The President is a Democrat in principle.—Peninsula Enterprise.

## Won't Have to "Touch" Them.

Miss Helen Gould spent only \$1,000 on her trousseau, but she will not have to call on either papa or the husband who she wants a spring outfit.—Nerfolk Ledger-Dispatch.

## Voice of the People

Against Bible Reading in Public Schools.

To the Editor of the Times-Dispatch: Sir,—I hope sincerely that the Richmond School Board will rescind its recent action requesting the reading of the Bible in the public schools of the city. Not to rescind it will be unfair to secularists, Catholics and Jews, and inconsistent with the doctrine of religious freedom and equality before the law and divorcement of church and State—doctrines for which the people of Virginia have paid so dear, and yet not too dear a price.

W. C. JAMES, Pastor Grove Avenue Baptist Church, Richmond.

## Consult Richmond Historians.

To the Editor of the Times-Dispatch: Sir,—In your Query Column some few days ago the question, "What were the causes that led up to the war of '61-'65?" was asked. The answer was most unsatisfactory. "Any good history will tell you." In the first place, where would we find that history that would do justice to the cause? I have been hoping each day to find in your columns some more definite answer. As it has not come, I will refer you to a Roanoke lad, Maxwell Gordon Wallace, and is printed in the paper of that date. It is a most creditable essay, giving true and concise facts. Another most comprehensive speech at Holmwood memorial services, July 2, 1911, by Attorney-General William A. Anderson (also in the Times-Dispatch), contains these same facts, more elaborated on. Both of these papers are worthy to be in pamphlet form. I have them in my scrapbook, and would be most pleased to lend them to the party inquiring through your columns, and wish they might reach every one interested in the true history of the cause we are now fighting.

MRS. N. V. RANDOLPH, President Richmond Chapter, U. D. C., Richmond.

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